Sanctions by developed countries

†744. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various sanctions are being imposed on the businessmen, experts and skilled workers of India by the developed countries in the era of globalisation;

(b) whether India is also considering to impose such sanctions on the line of developed countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Demand of tobacco growers

745. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco growers are demanding to dispense with the auction system and allow traders to buy tobacco from farmers directly; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with Pakistan

746. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) India's trade with Pakistan during the last three years, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government are contemplating to improve the trade relations with Pakistan by introducing direct flights between the two countries, exporting cement, cotton and steel to Pakistan;

(c) whether any meeting between Indo-Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry were held recently to improve the trade relations; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Figures of India's trade with Pakistan for the last three years are given below year-wise:

(Million US Dollars)

Year	Exports	Imports
2000-2001	186.83	64.03
2001-2002	144.01	64.76
2002-2003	205.81	44.52

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b) In his statement in the Parliament on May 2, 2003 the Prime Minister had offered the resumption of civil aviation links with Pakistan on reciprocal basis. Pakistan has, on July 16, 2003, announced that it is willing to host the technical level talks between the Civil Aviation authorities of the two sides. Dates for the meeting are to be finalised.

It is the Government's policy to promote trade with all countries including Pakistan in all the commodities and services of mutual interest including cement, cotton and steel. Government of India has continued to accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. India has also been exchanging tariff concessions with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA). Other trade promotion measures include exchange of business delegation, participation in fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The joint recommendations of the meeting identified (i) enlargement of scope of goods and services traded; (ii) restoration of transportation and communication links; (iii) liberal visa facility for businessmen; and (iv) making SAARC effective as the major factors for promotion of trade and commerce with Pakistan.

Golden jubilee of CGHS

747. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to celebrate the golden jubilee of the CGHS as it entered 50th year of its existence on the 1st June, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the allocation of funds for the purpose; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for providing better medical facilities to the beneficiaries, particularly the pensioners served by the dispensaries in the outlying areas of Delhi and outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The CGHS was introduced *vide* Ministry of Health's Memorandum dated 1st May, 1954, and has entered into its 50th year of existence on 1st May, 2003.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present for celebrating the golden jubilee of the CGHS.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) It has always been the endeavor of the Government to provide better medical facilities to all the CGHS beneficiaries including pensioner beneficiaries in the cities where CGHS is in operation.

DNB degree

†748. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical students seeking DNB degree for post-graduation after their MBBS will now have to go through the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.